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yarn, and originally tufting the yarn at a rather long loop length, the washing, steaming, drying, and dying steps shrink the yarn to form smaller, tighter loops and provide a denser surface to the primary carpet precursor. Next, this primary carpet precursor is split in half and rolled to form, two separate six foot wide rolls 115 of split primary carpet precursor 113 (FIG. 2A). Next, one roll 115 of the split primary carpet precursor 113 is used as the initial carpet feed in and the apparatus of Figure 2A. The latex pre-coat or hot melt adhesive coat 124 is added to the back of the primary carpet precursor 113 to form a primary carpet fabric 112 in the upper run of the apparatus of FIG. 2A downstream of the accumulator 150 and upstream of the reinforcement bonding unit 155. For example, a thin layer of latex pre-coat 119 is applied to the back of the primary carpet precursor 113 using a coating roller 117.

In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, the primary carpet precursor (not having a latex pre-coat) is rolled or wound with the primary backing 122 exposed (Figures 19 and 19A).

REMARKS

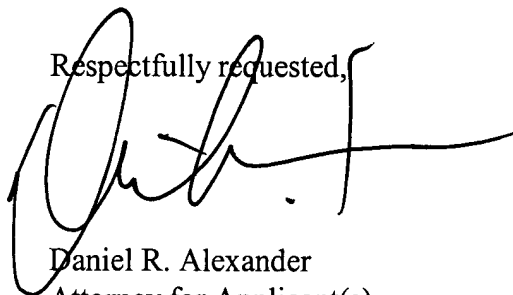
The text added by the present amendment is found in and supported by the prior application Serial No. 09/587,654, filed June 5, 2000 and incorporated by reference in the subject application. More particularly, the text for the amendment is found on pages 17, 18, 19, 22, and 23 of the prior application.

Applicant respectfully believes that the amendment does not present new matter.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee as may be required for timely acceptance of the Amendment transmitted herewith and/or to credit any surplus to Deposit Account No. 04-0500. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

MILLIKEN & COMPANY
P. O. Box 1926
Spartanburg, SC 29304

Respectfully requested,

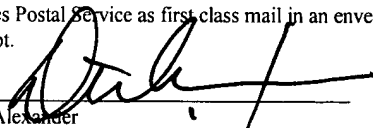


6/22/01

Daniel R. Alexander
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration Number 32,604
Telephone: (864) 503-1372

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on June 22, 2001, along with a postcard receipt.


Daniel R. Alexander
Attorney for Applicant(s)

AMENDMENTS – CLEAN COPY

Page 18, lines 7 and 8, **replace** the paragraph “FIG. 3A is a ... as illustrated in FIG. 2.” with the following paragraphs:

FIG. 2A is a schematic view illustrating a modified embodiment of the apparatus and process of FIG. 2 with the latex back coat added during the process.

FIG. 3A is a cut-away side view of a tufted carpet incorporating a structure formed by the apparatus and process of the present invention as illustrated in FIG. 2 or FIG. 2A.

Page 18, line 22, following the last paragraph **add** the following new paragraph:

FIG. 5A is a schematic view representing a modified embodiment of the apparatus and process of FIG. 5 without the addition of a reinforcement layer.

Page 19, lines 12 – 16, **replace** the paragraphs “Figure 8 ... of the present invention.” and “Figure 9... of Figure 8.” with the following paragraphs:

Figures 8A and 8B are respective simple and more complex schematic flow diagrams of the production of low weight modular carpet tiles in accordance with selected embodiments of the present invention.

Figure 9 is a tabular representation of the materials, dimensions, temperatures, and the like used in the process of Figures 8A and 8B.

Page 20, line 3, following the paragraph “Figures 19 and 19A... present invention.”, please **add** the following new paragraphs:

FIG. 19 is a schematic view representing still another alternative apparatus and process of the present invention without felt.

FIG. 19A is a schematic view illustrating still yet another alternative embodiment of the apparatus and process of the present invention without felt (secondary backing) or scrim (reinforcement layer).

Page 22, lines 19 – 23, and page 23, lines 1 – 12, **replace** the paragraphs “In accordance with one...a coating roller.” and “In accordance with ... backing 122 exposed.” with the following paragraphs:

In accordance with one example of the present invention and with reference to FIG. 2A of the drawings, the primary carpet 112 is a loop pile tufted carpet formed by tufting, for example, a non-heatset yarn through the primary backing, then washing, steaming, drying, and injection or jet dying thereon a, preferably, monolithic or orientation independent design, color, or pattern to form, for example, a 12 foot wide primary carpet precursor of loop pile 120 and primary backing 122. By using a non-heatset yarn, and originally tufting the yarn at a rather long loop length, the washing, steaming, drying, and dying steps shrink the yarn to form smaller, tighter loops and provide a denser surface to the primary carpet precursor. Next, this primary carpet precursor is split in half and rolled to form, two separate six foot wide rolls 115 of split primary carpet precursor 113 (FIG. 2A). Next, one roll 115 of the split primary carpet precursor 113 is used as the initial carpet feed in and the apparatus of Figure 2A. The latex pre-coat or hot melt adhesive coat 124 is added to the back of the primary carpet precursor 113 to form a primary carpet fabric 112 in the upper run of the apparatus of FIG. 2A downstream of the

accumulator 150 and upstream of the reinforcement bonding unit 155. For example, a thin layer of latex pre-coat 119 is applied to the back of the primary carpet precursor 113 using a coating roller 117.

In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, the primary carpet precursor (not having a latex pre-coat) is rolled or wound with the primary backing 122 exposed (Figures 19 and 19A).